

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The claims now pending in the application are claims 1, 2, 5, 7-23 and 25-46, with claims 1, 5, 10, 22, 23, 29, 35-38, 40, and 46 being independent. By this Amendment, claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 5, 10, 13, 14, 22, and 34 have been amended, and claim 46 has been newly added. Support for the amendments and for the new claims can be found in the original application, as filed. No new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicants note that claims 23, 25-33, 34/(23, 25-33) and 35-45 are allowed. Also, claims 3, 5, 7-12, 15-22, and 34/(5, 7-12, 15-22) would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, the features of claim 3 have been incorporated into claim 1; claims 5, 10, and 22 have been rewritten in independent form; and claims 3 and 4 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 5, 10, and 22 are believed to be allowable.

Thus, independent claims 1, 5, 10, 22, 23, 29, 35-38, and 40 are allowable. Newly added claim 46 is also believed to be allowable inasmuch as that claim is substantially previously presented (and rejected) claim 1 modified to include the features of previously presented (and objected-to) claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of the independent claims are now allowable, and that the prior art rejections are moot in view of this Amendment. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are solicited.

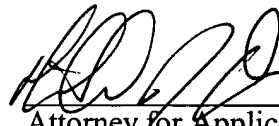
The remaining claims depend from one or more of the independent claims and are believed allowable by reason of that dependency, and for reciting further patentable

features of the invention. Favorable and independent consideration of the dependent claims are requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

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